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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,588	09/27/2004	Henk W. M. Boelaars	2255.0	5587

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LAITRAM, L.L.C.
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HARAHAN, LA 70123

EXAMINER

NICHOLSON III, LESLIE AUGUST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/711,588	BOELAARS, HENK W. M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leslie A. Nicholson III	3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) under Arscott have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made. See ¶3.

The Examiner further notes that while Arscott is silent as to whether the roller-top belt is used as a main conveyor or a cross conveyor, it is clear that the device can be used in either application. C3/L47-54 states only that the conveyors can be used to accept products entering sideways and being discharged sideways. This is the same as that of the cross conveyor in the instant application. As shown in at least the prior art of record, cross conveyors are well known in the art, and as stated above, Arscott does not teach away from the device being used as a cross conveyor.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 1,2,5,7-9,11,15-18,20-22,24-27,29-37,39,40 (see ¶1) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldinger USP 3,921,789 in view of Arscott USP 4,231,469.

Goldinger discloses a conveyor system comprising a main conveyor and at least one cross conveyor disposed along the main conveying path and intersecting and passing through the main conveyor (fig.1), and means for raising and lowering the roller-top comprising elevating the sprocket sets relative to the main conveyor to raise the roller-top belt to the higher second position when the roller-top belt is being driven (C2/L30-53).

Goldinger does not expressly disclose the cross conveyor comprising a roller-top belt having a plurality of rollers and having axles, a bi-directional drive engaging the roller-top belt, the drive for the roller-top belt including sprocket sets on opposite sides of the main conveyor, or a wear surface.

Arscott teaches a roller-top belt having a plurality of rollers and having axles (fig.5,6), a bi-directional drive engaging the roller-top belt (described by directions 3,3') (C3/L10-13), the drive for the roller-top belt including sprocket sets on opposite sides of the main conveyor (inherent, if not disclosed), and a wear surface (C3/L50-56) for the purpose of providing a clean positive entry or exit of products entering sideways and being discharged sideways (C3/L45-56).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a roller-top belt having a plurality of rollers and having axles, a bi-directional drive engaging the roller-top belt, the drive for the roller-top belt including

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sprocket sets on opposite sides of the main conveyor, and a wear surface, as taught by Arscott, in the device of Goldinger, for the purpose of providing a clean positive entry or exit of products entering sideways and being discharged sideways.

4. Claims 3,4,12-14,28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldinger USP 3,921,789 in view of Arscott USP 4,231,469 further in view of Adama USP 4,598,815.

Goldinger discloses all the limitations of the claim, but does not expressly disclose the main conveyor comprising a series of endless belt loops along the main conveying path separated by a gap, the main conveyor belt defining a conveying plane along a major portion of the main conveying path and disposed below the cross conveyor along a minor portion, or the article-supporting surface slightly above the main conveying plane when the drive is driving the roller-top belt.

Adama teaches the main conveyor comprising a series of endless belt loops along the main conveying path separated by a gap, the main conveyor belt defining a conveying plane along a major portion of the main conveying path and disposed below the cross conveyor along a minor portion (at least fig.3) for the purpose of the main conveyor belt moving continuously from the upstream side to the downstream side (C7/L26-36).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the main conveyor with a series of endless belt loops along the main conveying path separated by a gap, the main conveyor belt defining a conveying plane

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along a major portion of the main conveying path and disposed below the cross conveyor along a minor portion, as taught by Adama, in the device of Goldinger, for the purpose of the main conveyor belt moving continuously from the upstream side to the downstream side.

Adama teaches the article-supporting surface slightly above the main conveying plane when the drive is driving the roller-top belt for the purpose of creating a diversion of conveyed articles (C8/L23-48).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the article-supporting surface slightly above the main conveying plane when the drive is driving the roller-top belt, as taught by Adama, in the device of Arscott, for the purpose of creating a diversion of conveyed articles.

5. Claims 10,19,23,38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldinger USP 3,921,789 in view of Arscott USP 4,231,469 further in view of Bonnet USP 5,984,078.

Arscott discloses all the limitations of the claim, but does not expressly disclose sensors.

Bonnet teaches the use of sensors (54) for the purpose of providing a signal before a parcel is about to enter a diverter station (see figures) (C4/L37-49).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the use of sensors, as taught by Bonnet, in the device of Arscott, for the purpose of providing a signal before a parcel is about to enter a diverter station.

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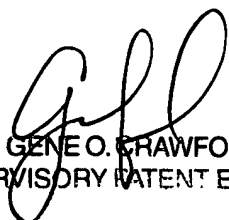
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie A. Nicholson III whose telephone number is 571-272-5487. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

L.N.
1/17/2007


GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER